(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Central and State Commissariat for persons with disabilities have taken effective action for implementing the provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been in force from 7.2.1996 throughout the country excepting that the Act does not extend to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) to (d) Representation in identified posts for persons with disabilities in various Ministries/ Departments is in excess of 3% in all groups.

(e) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the State Commissioners are following up the implementation of the various provisions of the Act with States/UT Governments.

Social Welfare Schemes for Backwards/SCs/STs and border areas of Rajasthan

†4922. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of social welfare schemes being implemented in Rajasthan by Government and amount provided for the same under these schemes, district-wise;

(b) the manner in which this spending is controlled by Government;

(c) whether there is any scheme for the welfare of Backwards/SCs/STs and border areas of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the same is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The social welfare schemes being implemented in Rajasthan and amount provided to them are available in the Annual reports of the Ministry.

(b) Grant-in-aid is released to State Government on receipt of proposals

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and further instalment on the basis of Utilization Certificate. The spending (grant-in-aid etc.) by the Ministry is controlled through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, nodal agencies and the Ministry's own officials. As a result of inspection, where it is found that the delivery of services is not commensurate with the funds released by the Ministry, the concerned agency is advised to improve its performance. In case of failure to improve or clear defalcation of funds, further release of grant-in-aid is suspended.

(c) There are no separate schemes for border areas of Rajasthan. However, the welfare schemes of the Ministry are for the entire country and cover all the States/UTs.

(d) The welfare schemes are implemented through the State Governments and also through voluntary organizations.

Financial assistance to backward castes for higher education in Gujarat

4923. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given to the backward castes in Gujarat for higher education through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation during the year 1999-2000;

(b) the number of persons benefited thereby;

(c) the number of applications received and pending out of them; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of persons for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No financial assistance has been provided to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes. (OBCs) in Gujarat for Higher education through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) during the year 1999-2000.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Channelising Agency (SCA) of Gujarat has not submitted any proposal during 1999-2000. As such, no proposal is pending with NBCFDC.